

Senate Bill No. 1451

Passed the Senate August 29, 2006

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 23, 2006

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2006, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 8588.15 to the Government Code, relating to public safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1451, Kehoe. Emergency preparedness: disabled community.

Existing law provides for emergency services, as specified.

This bill would require the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to ensure representation of the disabled community on all pertinent Standardized Emergency Management System Specialist Committees, as specified. The bill would require the Director of Emergency Services to report to the Legislature, not later than January 1, 2009, recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, procedures and other items, as specified, to prepare and disseminate sample brochures on those matters, and to make those brochures available in accessible formats, as specified. The bill would require the director and the State Fire Marshal's office to seek research funds to assist in the development of new technologies and information systems that will assist in the evacuation of disabled persons, as specified. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that funds be used from funds received from the federal Department of Homeland Security, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Recent emergencies, such as "9/11" and Hurricane Katrina, have underscored the need for government to have in place emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and accessible information.

(b) Specifically, these disasters have demonstrated that emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and accessible information have not been developed to serve the unique needs of those with physical, sensory, and cognitive

disabilities; California is among those states that lack procedures to address the needs of those with disabilities, in evacuating public and private facilities and private residences during an emergency or disaster.

(c) California has a system in place to maintain and improve all phases of emergency management, known as the Standardized Emergency Management System. In order to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are met during emergency and disaster situations, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services shall ensure representation of the disabled community on all pertinent Standardized Emergency Management System Specialist Committees.

SEC. 2. Section 8588.15 is added to the Government Code, to read:

8588.15. (a) The Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services shall appoint representatives of the disabled community to serve on the evacuation, sheltering, communication, recovery, and other pertinent Standardized Emergency Management System committees, including one representative to the Technical Working Group. Representatives of the disabled community shall, to the extent practicable, be from the following groups:

- (1) Persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- (2) Persons with sensory or cognitive disabilities.
- (3) Persons with physical disabilities.

(b) Within the Standardized Emergency Management System structure, the director shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the needs of the disabled community are met by ensuring all committee recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to emergencies include the needs of people with disabilities.

(c) The director shall produce a report containing recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and provision of accessible information on emergency evacuations regarding the needs of people with disabilities and submit it to the Legislature and appropriate state and local agencies by January 1, 2009. The recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, proposed legislative and regulatory actions, relevant research or technology design, and training and exercise considerations.

(d) The director shall prepare and disseminate sample brochures and other relevant materials on preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to emergency evacuations that include the needs of the disabled community, and shall work with nongovernmental associations and entities to make them available in accessible formats, including, but not limited to Braille, large print, and electronic media.

(e) The director and the State Fire Marshal's office shall seek research funding to assist in the development of new technologies and information systems that will assist in the evacuation of the groups designated in subdivision (a) during emergency and disaster situations.

(f) It is the intent of the Legislature for the purpose of implementing this section and to the extent permitted by federal law, that funds may be used from the Federal Trust Fund from funds received from the federal Department of Homeland Security for implementation of homeland security programs.

Approved _____, 2006

Governor